

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment Resources

Quarterly Bulletin: January – March 2013

This quarterly bulletin compiles Smarter Balanced resources that were shared via the Agency's [Weekly Field Memo](#). The bulletins are stored on the Agency's [Smarter Balanced web page](#).

TOPICS:

- [News & Updates](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - [Contacts](#)
-

NEWS & UPDATES:

Smarter Balanced: Teachers Participate in Teacher Ambassadors Training

Audience: All

Teachers from 24 states, including Twinfield Union School's Terri Vest, met last week in Charlotte, North Carolina to participate in the first [NEA/Smarter Balanced Teacher Ambassadors training](#), funded by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. At the training, Smarter Balanced staff shared resources from the Smarter Balanced website related to summative and interim assessments, and demonstrated the Digital Library and the formative assessment process included in the resources submitted to the Digital Library.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Teacher Involvement Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.mindardo@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Pilot Testing Update

Audience: All

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has released the list of 93 Vermont elementary, middle and high schools selected to participate in this spring's pilot-testing of the new, computer-based statewide assessment program. All other interested schools may volunteer to participate in practice testing later in the spring. The pilot testing will focus on either English/Language Arts or Mathematics at one or two grade levels in each school, and will involve about 4000 students in Vermont and two million students from across the 28 Smarter Balanced states. The purpose of the pilot is to try out the new computer test delivery system, and to begin gathering key statistical information on nearly ten thousand test questions. The consortium is currently in the process of developing more than forty thousand additional test questions that will be field tested next year. Because pilot and field testing are part of the test development process, no student or school results will be available. A list of the schools selected for the pilot testing and FAQ covering pilot-testing logistics can be downloaded here:

<http://bit.ly/ZYCdxF>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium: Adequate Technology & Student Preparedness

Audience: All

At AASA's 2013 National Conference on Education, Joe Willhoft of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium explained two main obstacles to school readiness for new state assessments based on the Common Core: adequate technology and student preparedness. Watch the video here:

<http://bit.ly/YJS15G>. Read Joe Willhoft's related article here: <http://bit.ly/10ckpAk>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

FAQs:

SBAC FAQ: What are ALDs?

Audience: All

What are achievement level descriptors (ALDs)? [Click here](#) to view the answer. Learn more about the assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What about Technology?

Audience: All

Is there a difference between the minimum technology requirement on the Smarter Balanced website and the technology requirements for the Pilot Test? [Click here](#) to view the answer. Learn more about the assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What about Spanish?

Audience: All

Is there a plan to provide communication materials in Spanish? [Click here](#) to view the answer. Learn more about the assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What about Tablets?

Audience: All

Are external keyboards required for tablets? [Click here](#) to view the answer. Learn more about the assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What is a Performance Task?

Audience: All

What is a performance task? [Click here](#) to view the answer. Learn more about the assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: Can Schools Volunteer to Participate in the Field Tests?

Audience: All

Will all schools that volunteer be able to participate in testing? [Click here](#) to view the answer.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: Can Schools Volunteer to Participate in the Pilot Tests?

Audience: All

Whom do I contact if I have questions about recruitment for the Smarter Balance Pilot Test? Please contact the recruitment contractor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), at 800-847-3193 or SmarterBalancedRecruitment@DataRecognitionCorp.com.

Whom do I contact if I have general questions about the Pilot or specific questions related to uploading students and navigating the online delivery system? Please contact the AIR Help Desk at 866-815-7246 or SmarterBalancedHelpDesk@air.org.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

AGENCY OF EDUCATION CONTACTS:

SBAC Assessments

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director

p) 802-479-1288

e) michael.hock@state.vt.us

w) <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>

SBAC Teacher Involvement Coordinator

Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Teacher Involvement Coordinator

p) 802-479-1309

e) maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

w) <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>

SBAC Readiness

Peter Drescher, SBAC Technology Readiness Coordinator

p) 802-479-1169

e) peter.drescher@state.vt.us

w) <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>